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648.43120CX1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: MAKINO et al  
Serial No.: 10/812,087  
Filed: March 30, 2004  
For: Vacuum Processing Apparatus  
Art Unit: 1763  
Examiner: K. Moore

**REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION**

Mail Stop: Response (No Fee)  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 27, 2006

Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of the Advisory Action dated June 23, 2006, in response to the Reply filed 05 June 2006.

The Advisory Action fails acknowledge that the reply filed 05 June 2006 included a Notice of Appeal, and applicants request clarification of the record with respect to the filing of the Notice of Appeal.

More particularly, reference is made to the first full paragraph on page 8 of the Reply filed 05 June 2006, which sets forth:

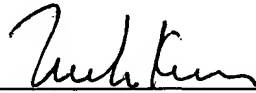
Applicants request that the paper also be considered as a Notice of Appeal and hereby appeal the final rejection of claims 7 - 19 and authorize charging of the appeal fees as indicated below. (emphasis added)

Applicants note that the following paragraph sets forth the Deposit Account of the office of the undersigned attorney and submit that the Notice of Appeal has been filed in accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR §41.31. Accordingly, applicants

request that the record be clarified to indicate the filing of a Notice of Appeal on 05 June 2006, noting that an Appeal Brief is now due to be filed within two months from the date of filing the Notice of Appeal in accordance with 37 CFR §41.37.

Respectfully submitted,

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